

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

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1. An image forming device comprising:  
an identification information reading part  
reading identification information of a document;  
an operation requirement selection part  
10 selecting at least one operation requirement specified  
according to said identification information; and  
an operation control part controlling an  
execution of a predetermined operation according to the  
operation requirement selected by said operation  
15 requirement selection part.

20 2. The image forming device as claimed in  
claim 1, wherein said operation requirement is a  
requirement regarding security for said document.

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3. The image forming device as claimed in claim 1, wherein said predetermined operation is forming an image by electronic data.

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4. The image forming device as claimed in claim 1, wherein said predetermined operation is  
10 printing said document on a paper.

15 5. The image forming device as claimed in claim 1, wherein said identification information reading part includes:

an identification information recognition part recognizing data acquired by performing a predetermined  
20 reading operation with respect to said document, as said identification information;

a document profile management part relating and managing said identification information and a document profile; and

25 a document profile acquisition part acquiring

said document profile related to said identification information recognized by said identification information recognition part by referring to said document profile management part.

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6. The image forming device as claimed in  
10 claim 5, wherein said predetermined reading operation reads either a bar code, a two-dimensional code or a magnetic code printed on said document, or an RFID provided on said document so as to recognize the read data as said identification information when said  
15 document is a paper.

20 7. The image forming device as claimed in claim 5, wherein said predetermined reading operation recognizes either a bar code, a two-dimensional code, numerical information, text information or a dot pattern from electronic image data generated by reading said  
25 document, as said identification information.

8. The image forming device as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a user profile acquisition part acquiring a user profile regarding a user requesting said predetermined operation.

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9. The image forming device as claimed in claim 8, wherein said user profile acquisition part includes:

a user identification information acquisition part acquiring user identification information identifying said user from said user;

15 a user profile management part relating and managing said user identification information and said user profile;

a user authentication part authenticating said user according to said user identification information;  
20 and

a user profile reading part acquiring said user profile related to said user identification information acquired by said user identification information acquisition part by referring to said user  
25 profile management part according to a result of the

authentication by said user authentication part.

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10. The image forming device as claimed in claim 8, wherein said user profile acquisition part includes:

10 a user identification information acquisition part acquiring user identification information identifying said user from said user; and

a user profile request part requesting said user profile from an external server authenticating said user and providing said user profile.

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11. The image forming device as claimed in claim 1, further comprising:

an operation requirement judgment part judging whether or not said operation requirement is feasible; and

25 an operation prohibition part prohibiting said predetermined operation when a result of the judgment by

said operation requirement judgment part indicates that  
said operation requirement is not feasible.

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12. The image forming device as claimed in  
claim 1, wherein said operation requirement requires  
embedding an electronic watermark upon executing said  
10 predetermined operation with respect to said document.

15 13. The image forming device as claimed in  
claim 1, wherein said operation requirement requires  
embedding a displayable label upon executing said  
predetermined operation with respect to said document.

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14. The image forming device as claimed in  
claim 9, wherein said operation requirement requires  
25 embedding a displayable label upon executing said

predetermined operation with respect to said document,  
and

said displayable label contains at least  
authentication data of said user requesting said  
5 predetermined operation, and a timestamp upon requesting  
said predetermined operation.

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15. The image forming device as claimed in  
claim 9, wherein said operation requirement requires  
recording at least authentication data of said user  
requesting said predetermined operation, document data  
15 of said document generated by said predetermined  
operation, and a timestamp upon requesting said  
predetermined operation.

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16. The image forming device as claimed in  
claim 1, further comprising a delivery part delivering  
document data via a network, the document data being  
25 generated by executing said predetermined operation with

satisfying said operation requirement enabling a network delivery of said document.

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17. An image forming device comprising:  
a document profile acquisition part  
transmitting identification information read from a  
10 document to an external server providing a document  
profile, and thereby receiving said document profile  
from said external server;  
an operation requirement selection part  
selecting at least one operation requirement according  
15 to said document profile; and  
an operation control part controlling an  
execution of a predetermined operation according to the  
operation requirement selected by said operation  
requirement selection part.

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18. The image forming device as claimed in  
25 claim 17, wherein said operation requirement is a



requirement regarding security for said document.

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19. The image forming device as claimed in claim 17, wherein said predetermined operation is forming an image by electronic data.

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20. The image forming device as claimed in claim 17, wherein said predetermined operation is printing said document on a paper.

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21. The image forming device as claimed in claim 17, wherein said document profile acquisition part includes:

an identification information recognition part recognizing data acquired by performing a predetermined reading operation with respect to said document, as said

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identification information; and

a communication part transmitting said  
identification information recognized by said  
identification information recognition part to said  
5 external server, and receiving said document profile  
transmitted from said external server.

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22. The image forming device as claimed in  
claim 21, wherein said identification information  
recognition part reads either a bar code, a two-  
dimensional code or a magnetic code printed on said  
15 document, or an RFID provided on said document by  
performing said predetermined reading operation so as to  
recognize the read data as said identification  
information when said document is a paper.

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23. The image forming device as claimed in  
claim 21, wherein said identification information  
25 recognition part recognizes either a bar code, a two-

dimensional code, numerical information, text  
information or a dot pattern from electronic image data  
generated by reading said document by performing said  
predetermined reading operation, as said identification  
5 information.

10           24. The image forming device as claimed in  
claim 23, wherein said document profile acquisition part  
includes a portion acquisition part acquiring a  
predetermined portion representing a portion or all of  
said electronic image data,

15           wherein said communication part transmits said  
predetermined portion of said electronic image data to  
said external server, and receives said document profile  
from said external server.

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          25. The image forming device as claimed in  
claim 17, further comprising a user profile acquisition  
25 part acquiring a user profile regarding a user

requesting said predetermined operation.

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26. The image forming device as claimed in claim 25, wherein said user profile acquisition part includes:

10 a user identification information acquisition part acquiring user identification information identifying said user from said user;

a user profile management part relating and managing said user identification information and said user profile;

15 a user authentication part authenticating said user according to said user identification information; and

20 a user profile reading part acquiring said user profile related to said user identification information acquired by said user identification information acquisition part by referring to said user profile management part according to a result of the authentication by said user authentication part.

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27. The image forming device as claimed in claim 25, wherein said user profile acquisition part includes:

5 a user identification information acquisition part acquiring user identification information identifying said user from said user; and

a user profile request part requesting said user profile from an external server authenticating said user and providing said user profile.

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28. The image forming device as claimed in claim 17, further comprising:

15 an operation requirement judgment part judging whether or not said operation requirement is feasible; and

20 an operation prohibition part prohibiting said predetermined operation when a result of the judgment by said operation requirement judgment part indicates that said operation requirement is not feasible.

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29. The image forming device as claimed in claim 17, wherein said operation requirement requires embedding an electronic watermark upon executing said predetermined operation with respect to said document.

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30. The image forming device as claimed in claim 17, wherein said operation requirement requires embedding a displayable label upon executing said predetermined operation with respect to said document.

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31. The image forming device as claimed in claim 26, wherein said operation requirement requires embedding a displayable label upon executing said predetermined operation with respect to said document, and

said displayable label contains at least authentication data of said user requesting said predetermined operation, and a timestamp upon requesting said predetermined operation.

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32. The image forming device as claimed in  
claim 26, wherein said operation requirement requires  
recording at least authentication data of said user  
requesting said predetermined operation, document data  
5 of said document generated by said predetermined  
operation, and a timestamp upon requesting said  
predetermined operation.

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33. The image forming device as claimed in  
claim 17, further comprising a delivery part delivering  
document data via a network, the document data being  
15 generated by executing said predetermined operation with  
satisfying said operation requirement enabling a network  
delivery of said document.

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34. A document profile management server  
comprising:

a communication part receiving document  
25 identification information transmitted from a device

connected via a network, the document identification information identifying a document, and transmitting a document profile related to said document identification information to said device;

5                   a document profile management part managing said document profile in relation to said document identification information; and

                  a document profile acquisition part acquiring said document profile related to said document  
10 identification information received from said device from said document profile management part.

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35. A document profile management server comprising:

                  a communication part receiving electronic image data transmitted from a device connected via a  
20 network, the electronic image data being generated by reading a document, and transmitting a document profile corresponding to said electronic image data to said device;

                  an identification information acquisition part  
25 reading either a bar code, a two-dimensional code,



numerical information, text information or a dot pattern from said electronic image data so as to acquire a document identification information identifying said document;

5           a document profile management part managing said document profile in relation to said document identification information; and

          a document profile acquisition part acquiring said document profile related to said document  
10 identification information acquired from said electronic image data from said document profile management part.

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36. A document processing device comprising a profile information addition part for performing a predetermined processing with respect to document data including a document profile added thereto by adding  
20 document identification information related to said document profile,

          wherein said profile information addition part includes:

          a document profile acquisition part acquiring  
25 said document profile from said document data;

a communication part transmitting said document profile to an external server, and receiving said document identification information from said external server; and

5 a data processing part performing said predetermined processing by adding said document identification information to said document data.

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37. A document processing device comprising a profile information addition part for performing a predetermined processing with respect to document data  
15 including a document profile added thereto by adding electronic image data corresponding to said document profile,

wherein said profile information addition part includes:

20 a document profile acquisition part acquiring said document profile from said document data;

a communication part transmitting said document profile to an external server, and receiving said electronic image data from said external server;

25 and

a data processing part performing said predetermined processing by adding said electronic image data to said document data.

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38. A document profile management server comprising:

10 a communication part receiving a document profile transmitted from a device connected via a network, and transmitting document identification information related to said document profile to said device;

15 a document profile management part managing said document identification information in relation to said document profile; and

an identification information generation part writing said document profile received from said device  
20 in said document profile management part, generating said document identification information, and causing said document profile management part to manage said document identification information in relation to said document profile.

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39. The document profile management server as claimed in claim 38, further comprising an electronic image data generation part generating either a bar code, a two-dimensional code, numerical information, text  
5 information or a dot pattern as electronic image data according to said document identification information generated by said identification information generation part.

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40. A document profile management server comprising:

15 a communication part receiving and transmitting at least one of a document profile, document identification information and electronic image data to and from a device connected via a network;

a document profile management part managing  
20 said document identification information in relation to said document profile;

an identification information acquisition part reading either a bar code, a two-dimensional code, numerical information, text information or a dot pattern  
25 from said electronic image data so as to acquire the

document identification information;

a profile acquisition part acquiring said document profile from said document profile management part according to said document identification

5 information;

an identification information generation part writing said document profile in said document profile management part, generating said document identification information, and causing said document profile

10 management part to manage said document identification information in relation to said document profile; and

an electronic image data generation part generating either a bar code, a two-dimensional code, numerical information, text information or a dot pattern  
15 as the electronic image data according to said document identification information.

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41. An image forming device comprising:

a policy hold part holding a security policy describing a handling rule concerning a document;

a policy rewriting part rewriting said  
25 security policy held by said policy hold part with a

security policy from outside; and

an operation control part controlling an  
operation with respect to said document according to  
said security policy held by said policy hold part.

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42. The image forming device as claimed in  
10 claim 41, further comprising a communication part  
performing a communication control via a network,  
wherein said policy rewriting part rewrites  
said security policy held by said policy hold part with  
a security policy received by said communication part.

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43. The image forming device as claimed in  
20 claim 42, wherein said policy rewriting part writes a  
security policy acquired from outside by said  
communication part in said policy hold part upon  
application of power.

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44. The image forming device as claimed in claim 42, further comprising a timer part notifying said communication part of a timing for rewriting said security policy held by said policy hold part,

5            wherein said communication part acquires said security policy from a policy distribution server distributing said security policy via said network.

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45. The image forming device as claimed in claim 41, further comprising an interface part reading a security policy from a storage medium storing said security policy,

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          wherein said policy rewriting part rewrites said security policy held by said policy hold part with said security policy read by said interface part.

20

46. The image forming device as claimed in claim 45, further comprising a communication part performing a communication control via a network,

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wherein said communication part imparts selection information indicating a selection of a security policy to said policy rewriting part upon receiving said selection information, and

5           said policy rewriting part rewrites said security policy held by said policy hold part with said security policy read by said interface part according to said selection information.

10

47. The image forming device as claimed in claim 46, wherein said policy hold part holds a  
15 plurality of the security policies, and

          said policy rewriting part sets one of said security policies held by said policy hold part as a security policy to be enforced according to said selection information.

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48. The image forming device as claimed in  
25 claim 42, wherein said communication part acquires said



security policy via said network according to Simple  
Object Access Protocol.

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49. The image forming device as claimed in  
claim 46, wherein said communication part acquires said  
security policy via said network according to Simple  
10 Object Access Protocol.

15 50. A policy distribution server comprising:  
a communication part performing a  
communication control via a network; and  
a policy management part managing a security  
policy describing a handling rule concerning a document,  
20 wherein said communication part distributes  
said security policy managed by said policy management  
part to a device connected via said network.

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51. The policy distribution server as claimed in claim 50, wherein said communication part transmits authentication information simultaneously upon distributing said security policy.

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52. The policy distribution server as claimed  
10 in claim 50, wherein said communication part receives a acquisition request for said security policy managed by said policy management part from said device connected via said network, and authentication information of said device, and transmits said security policy to said  
15 device according to a result of authentication based on said authentication information.

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53. The image forming device as claimed in claim 50, further comprising an interface writing said security policy in a storage medium,

wherein said policy management part writes  
25 said security policy to said storage medium by said

interface.

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54. An image forming device comprising:  
a rule acquisition part transmitting a  
document profile regarding a document to an external  
server providing a handling rule concerning said  
10 document according to said document profile, and thereby  
acquiring said handling rule from said external server;  
and

an operation control part controlling an  
operation with respect to said document according to  
15 said handling rule acquired by said rule acquisition  
part.

20

55. The image forming device as claimed in  
claim 54, wherein said rule acquisition part includes a  
communication part controlling a communication with said  
external server according to Simple Object Access  
25 Protocol.

56. The image forming device as claimed in claim 54, wherein said rule acquisition part includes:

a communication part controlling a communication with said external server;

5 a select function hold part holding feasibility information indicating whether or not a selectable function is executable; and

an operation requirement judgment part judging whether or not an operation requirement specified by  
10 said handling rule to be satisfied for allowing said operation is feasible by referring to said feasibility information held by said select function hold part,

wherein said operation control part controls said operation with respect to said document according a  
15 result of the judgment by said operation requirement judgment part.

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57. A policy interpretation server comprising:

a communication part performing a communication control via a network;

25 a policy hold part holding a security policy

describing a handling rule concerning a document; and  
a policy acquisition part acquiring said  
handling rule concerning an operation performed with  
respect to said document by referring to said security  
5 policy held by said policy hold part according to a  
document profile regarding said document and said  
operation performed with respect to said document,  
wherein said communication part imparts said  
document profile and said operation received via said  
10 network to said policy acquisition part, and transmits  
said handling rule acquired by said policy acquisition  
part.

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58. The policy interpretation server as  
claimed in claim 57, further comprising:  
a select function hold part holding  
20 feasibility information indicating whether or not a  
selectable function is executable in each of devices  
connected via said network; and  
an operation requirement judgment part judging  
whether or not an operation requirement specified by  
25 said handling rule acquired by said policy acquisition

part to be satisfied for allowing said operation is feasible by referring to said feasibility information held by said select function hold part.

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59. An image forming method comprising:  
an identification information reading step of  
10 reading identification information of a document;  
an operation requirement selection step of  
selecting at least one operation requirement specified  
according to said identification information; and  
an operation control step of controlling an  
15 execution of a predetermined operation according to the  
operation requirement selected by said operation  
requirement selection step.

20

60. The image forming method as claimed in  
claim 59, further comprising:  
an operation requirement judgment step of  
25 judging whether or not said operation requirement is

feasible; and

an operation prohibition step of prohibiting  
said predetermined operation when a result of the  
judgment by said operation requirement judgment step  
5 indicates that said operation requirement is not  
feasible.

10

61. An image forming method comprising:  
a document profile acquisition step of  
transmitting identification information read from a  
document to an external server providing a document  
15 profile, and thereby receiving said document profile  
from said external server;

an operation requirement selection step of  
selecting at least one operation requirement according  
to said document profile; and

20 an operation control step of controlling an  
execution of a predetermined operation according to the  
operation requirement selected by said operation  
requirement selection step.

25

62. The image forming method as claimed in claim 61, wherein said document profile acquisition step includes:

an identification information recognition step  
5 of recognizing data acquired by performing a  
predetermined reading operation with respect to said  
document, as said identification information; and  
a communication step of transmitting said  
identification information recognized by said  
10 identification information recognition step to said  
external server, and receiving said document profile  
transmitted from said external server.

15

63. A method for a computer to perform:

a policy hold step of holding a security  
policy describing a handling rule concerning a document;

20 a policy rewriting step of rewriting said  
security policy held by said policy hold step with a  
security policy from outside; and

an operation control step of controlling an  
operation with respect to said document according to  
25 said security policy held by said policy hold step.



64. A computer executable program causing a computer to perform:

an identification information reading step of reading identification information of a document;

5 an operation requirement selection step of selecting at least one operation requirement specified according to said identification information;

an operation control step of controlling an execution of a predetermined operation according to the  
10 operation requirement selected by said operation requirement selection step;

an operation requirement judgment step of judging whether or not said operation requirement is feasible; and

15 an operation prohibition step of prohibiting said predetermined operation when a result of the judgment by said operation requirement judgment step indicates that said operation requirement is not feasible.

20

65. A computer executable program causing a  
25 computer to perform:

a document profile acquisition step of  
transmitting identification information read from a  
document to an external server providing a document  
profile, and thereby receiving said document profile  
5 from said external server;

an operation requirement selection step of  
selecting at least one operation requirement according  
to said document profile; and

an operation control step of controlling an  
10 execution of a predetermined operation according to the  
operation requirement selected by said operation  
requirement selection step.

15

66. A computer executable program causing a  
computer to perform:

a policy hold step of holding a security  
20 policy describing a handling rule concerning a document;

a policy rewriting step of rewriting said  
security policy held by said policy hold step with a  
security policy from outside; and

an operation control step of controlling an  
25 operation with respect to said document according to

said security policy held by said policy hold step.

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67. A computer readable storage medium  
storing a program causing a computer to perform:  
an identification information reading step of  
reading identification information of a document;

10 an operation requirement selection step of  
selecting at least one operation requirement specified  
according to said identification information;

an operation control step of controlling an  
execution of a predetermined operation according to the  
15 operation requirement selected by said operation  
requirement selection step;

an operation requirement judgment step of  
judging whether or not said operation requirement is  
feasible; and

20 an operation prohibition step of prohibiting  
said predetermined operation when a result of the  
judgment by said operation requirement judgment step  
indicates that said operation requirement is not  
feasible.

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68. A computer readable storage medium  
storing a program causing a computer to perform:

a document profile acquisition step of  
transmitting identification information read from a  
5 document to an external server providing a document  
profile, and thereby receiving said document profile  
from said external server;

an operation requirement selection step of  
selecting at least one operation requirement according  
10 to said document profile;

an operation control step of controlling an  
execution of a predetermined operation according to the  
operation requirement selected by said operation  
requirement selection step;

15 an operation requirement judgment step of  
judging whether or not said operation requirement is  
feasible; and

an operation prohibition step of prohibiting  
said predetermined operation when a result of the  
20 judgment by said operation requirement judgment step  
indicates that said operation requirement is not  
feasible.

69. A computer readable storage medium  
storing a program causing a computer to perform:

a policy hold step of holding a security  
policy describing a handling rule concerning a document;

5 a policy rewriting step of rewriting said  
security policy held by said policy hold step with a  
security policy from outside; and

an operation control step of controlling an  
operation with respect to said document according to  
10 said security policy held by said policy hold step.